

Spring Mill State Park

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

Programs at all our state parks and reservoirs: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/programs/schedule/>

October 2006

Nature Center Hours:
Daily 10:00am-5:00pm (EDT)

Pioneer Village Hours:
9:00am-5:00pm (EDT)
Daily April thru October 29
Weekends thru November

Twin Caves Hours:
9:00am-5:00pm (EDT)
Daily May 27 thru Labor Day
Weekends thru October

Grissom Memorial Hours:
Daily 8:30am-4:00pm (EDT)

Property Mgr: Mark Young

Asst. Property Mgr.: Jon Winne

Interpretive Naturalists: Jill Vance,
and Scott Stowers

Pioneer Village Staff: Housekeeper,
Weaver, Leatherworker, Quilter,
Blacksmith, Gardener, Miller,
and Woodworker

Twin Caves Staff: Cecil East, Brad
Hinds, Roy McIver, Erik Bare,
and Mark Shaber

Program Specialist: Dave Williams

Public programs are designed for individuals and families.

If you will be bringing an organized group, you can contact the Nature Center in advance and schedule a private program just for your group (\$1/person charge). (812) 849-4129

NOTICE: Trail 5 is currently closed for repairs.

HP-HP *Healthy Parks – Healthy People*

Get “INShape” with us, and discover what it takes to keep a state park healthy.



Look for our hikes and strolls!

Watch for the roving naturalist!



Sunday, October 1

11am-12pm Fall Tree Lapel Pin – Drop in to create a unique lapel pin that celebrates the beauty of trees in autumn. Nature Center, Lower Level.

11:30am Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

1:00pm



Myths and Legends of the Woods – Hear stories of will-o-wisps, Bigfoot, and other creatures said to roam the woods of southern Indiana on this moderate-easy hike. Meet at the Pioneer Village, Concession Stand (45 min).

2:30pm

Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

Monday, October 2 – Thursday, October 5



For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together.
For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad.

~Edwin Way Teale

Friday, October 6

9:00pm




Hunter's Full Moon Hike – Join us a hike through the Pioneer Village under the light of a full moon! A park naturalist will share stories and legends about the moon. Meet at the Pioneer Village, Concession Stand (45 min).

Saturday, October 7 Autumn Harvest Days

- 10am-5pm** **Harvest Fair** – Spring Mill brings the flavor of a county fair to the Pioneer Village! Check out displays of canned goods, garden produce, traditional crafts, and more that have been created by Spring Mill’s staff and volunteers. Pioneer Village.
- 11:00am** **Cornhusk Roses** – Celebrate the harvest by creating a beautiful using cornhusks and learn a little about the history of corn in America. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:00pm** **Pie-Eating Contest** – How fast can you devour a delicious piece of pie? This is your chance to find out! Certificates awarded to the fastest eaters. Limited to 16 contestants (sign up in the Upper Residence beginning at 12pm). Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Lawn (30 min).
- 2:00pm** **Build Your Own Flatboat** – Build your own miniature flatboat to race down the creek later this afternoon! During the 1800s, flatboats carried the products of Spring Mill Village downriver to New Orleans; can you build a flatboat that will successfully carry its cargo down the creek? Pioneer Village, Carpenter Shop Lawn (45 min).
- 2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 3:30pm** **Flatboat Race** – Bring over the flatboat you built earlier and put it to the test in this race down the creek! Prizes awarded for the fastest flatboat and the first to finish the race with its cargo intact. The race begins in front of the Munson House in the Pioneer Village (don’t be late!).
- 4-5pm** **Pumpkin Painting** – October is pumpkin season! Drop in and celebrate the pumpkin harvest by painting a small pumpkin to take home (or perhaps to use in decorating your campsite tonight?). *Cost is \$1/pumpkin.* Pioneer Village, Gristmill Lawn.
- 7-9pm** **Campsite Decorating Contest** – Show off your exterior design skills and give your campsite some seasonal flair! **All decorations must be in place by 7pm for judging; decorating your campsite automatically enters you into the contest.** Prizes awarded to the top three entries in both categories: “Autumn Harvest” and “October Festivals.” Additional prizes awarded to the “Most Creative” and “Best in Campground.”

Sunday, October 8 Autumn Harvest Days

- 10am-1pm** **Acorn Flour Demonstration** – One of the most important foods harvested in the fall, particularly in pre-settlement times, was the acorn.  Drop in and watch as acorns are transformed into flour. Pioneer Village, Next to the creek (near the Apothecary Shop).
- 11:00am** **Wheat-Weaving Workshop** – Learn the significance for settlers of practicing this ancient art while making a simple wheat weaving to take home. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (20 min).
- 11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:00pm** **Indian Corn Magnets** – Corn is still an important crop today, just as it was during pioneer times and earlier. Corn today, though, often bears little resemblance to the multi-colored ears of yesteryear. Join us and make a colorful Indian corn magnet to take home. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30-40 min).
- 2:00pm** **Pioneer Family Games** – Bring your family over to celebrate the harvest as pioneers would have done – by taking a break and playing some games! Pioneer Village, Gristmill Lawn (30 min).
- 2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

*No spring nor summer beauty
hath such grace
As I have seen in one
autumnal face.
~John Donne*



Monday, October 9 – Friday, October 13

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns. ~George Eliot


Saturday, October 14 **SCARECROW WEEKEND**


Pioneer Village closes at 4pm today to prepare for the Haunted Village!

- 9:30am

Scarecrows Arise! – Help design and erect the scarecrows that will loom over the Pioneer Village this weekend. Lots of helpers needed! Pioneer Village, Meeting House (45 min).
- 11:00am

Ghosts and Ghost-hunters of Southern Indiana – Hear stories of southern Indiana ghosts and hauntings, check out pictures, and learn how professional ghost-hunters operate. Program presented by the Indiana Ghost Trackers. Nature Center, Program Room (45-60 min).
- 1:00pm

 Cemetery Stroll – Discover more about who is buried in Hamer Cemetery and how some people locate unmarked graves using a technique called “dousing”. Meet in front of Hamer Cemetery (30 min).
- 1:00pm

 Pumpkin Carving Session 1 – Use your creativity to carve a unique pumpkin to decorate your home or campsite. You get to have fun carving – and we take care of the cleanup! **Cost is \$5/pumpkin. Limited to 25 pumpkins each session** (sign up for both sessions beginning at noon at Butternut Grove Shelter). Butternut Grove Shelter (45-60 min).
- 2:00pm

Pumpkin Carving Session 2 – See above description.
- 4:00pm

PIONEER VILLAGE CLOSES to prepare for Haunted Village!



Costume and Candy Parade!

4:30pm in the Campground



Check out the creativity of your fellow campers as they parade through the campground, passing out candy to spectators!

Want to join in the parade? Dress up and arrive at the Campground Amphitheater by no later than 4:15pm! Well-behaved dogs (in costume, of course) are welcome (*must be kept on a 6ft or shorter leash at all times*). And don’t worry, we’ll set some candy aside for all the human parade participants (and dog treats for costumed canines)!

Saturday, October 14 **CONTINUED....**

Haunted Pioneer Village


7:30-10pm


The Pioneer Village has been transformed into a frightening place to explore! Prepare to be scared as your group makes its way through the haunted buildings and streets... Line starts at the Pioneer Village, Concession Stand. ***Please do not arrive before 7pm!***

The Haunted Pioneer Village is NOT recommended for children 8 and under!

Sunday, October 15 **SCARECROW WEEKEND**

- 11:00am

 **Mini-Scarecrow Workshop** – Design your own miniature scarecrow (maybe to scare away bugs from a potted plant?) while learning about their history! **Cost is \$2/person. Limited to 25 people** (sign up for the craft and see an example, beginning at 10:15am at the Meeting House). Pioneer Village, Meeting House (45 min).
- 1:00pm

 **Tombstone Tour** – View Hamer Cemetery from a whole new perspective! We’ll look at the durability of different stones, tombstone styles, and inscriptions. Meet in front of Hamer Cemetery (30 min).
- 1-3pm

Broom-making Demonstration – Drop in and watch as a pioneer reenactor demonstrates the traditional way to make a broom. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Porch.



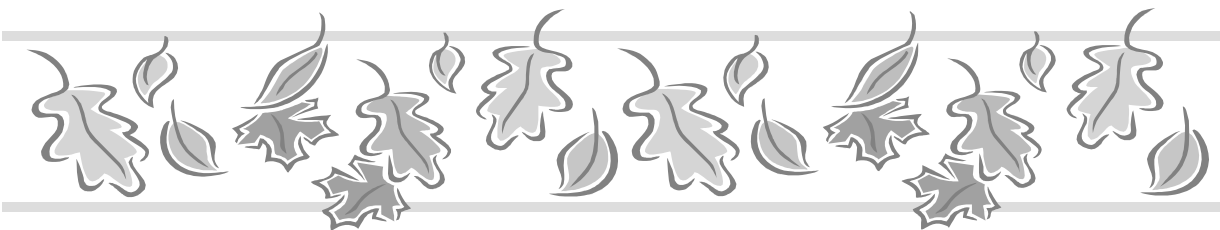
Monday, October 16 – Friday, October 20

The fire is the main comfort of the camp, whether in summer or winter, and is about as ample at one season as at another. It is as well for cheerfulness as for warmth and dryness. ~Henry David Thoreau



Saturday, October 21 Fall Family Weekend

- 11am-12pm Tin Punch Pumpkins** – Drop in and use the tin punch technique to craft a seasonal decoration. *While supplies last.* Pioneer Village, Weaver’s Shop Lawn.
- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1-4pm Face-Painting!** – Celebrate the season by decorating your face with a picture of falling leaves, pumpkins, and other autumn objects. Free! Pioneer Village, Concession Stand.
- 12-1pm Leaves of Leather** – Drop in to etch in the veins on a leather leaf and paint it with beautiful fall colors to create a unique keychain to take home. Pioneer Village, Leatherworker’s Shop.
- 2:00pm Make-Your-Own Chalk** – Create a personal set of colorful sidewalk chalk. Bring your chalk back on Sunday morning for the sidewalk art competition! *Cost is \$2/person. Limited to 50 participants (first come, first served).* Nature Center, Back Patio (45 min).
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 3:00pm Glitter Trees** – Design and decorate a forest of autumn trees using a unique kind of “glitter” made from the trees themselves. Nature Center, Back Patio (30 min).



Saturday, October 21 Continued...

- 7:00pm Ghost and Legends Hayride** - Sit back, relax, and listen to some ghost stories and other legends of southern Indiana during a hayride through the park. **Not intended to be scary, just entertaining** (*However, the subject matter, combined with a dark night, may still be frightening for young children*). *Cost is \$4/person; limited to 25 people (first come, first served).* Meet at the Saddle Barn (50min).
- 8:30pm Orionid Meteor Shower** – Tonight is the peak of the Orionid meteor shower and we’ll see if we’re lucky enough to catch a peak at some of these shooting stars! **Bring chairs or a blanket. Please keep flashlights turned off to protect our night vision. Hot chocolate provided!** Swimming Pool parking lot (1 hr).

Sunday, October 22 Fall Family Weekend

- 11:00am Sidewalk Chalk Art Competition (All Ages Welcome!)** – If you made your own chalk yesterday, bring it back today (*extra chalk is available – first come, first served*)! Stake out your space on the Nature Center sidewalk and let your creativity flow... *Prizes for all participants – special prize for the “Best Picture of Spring Mill State Park” and the “Most Creative”!* You’ll have till noon to complete your picture. **Mandatory check-in at the Nature Center Exhibit Desk by 11:15am.**
- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:00pm Empty Nest Syndrome?** – Most animal families have parted ways by now, forcing their youngest members to begin preparation for winter on their own. Find out how these animals have been prepped for life “out of the nest” and what they’re doing as winter approaches. Nature Center, Program Room (30 min).
- 2:00pm Cornhusk Bracelets** – Take a bit of autumn home with you around your wrist when you braid a unique bracelet made of cornhusks. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Lawn (30 min).
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).


Monday, October 23 – Friday, October 27

How hard to realize that every camp of men or beast has this glorious starry firmament for a roof! In such places standing alone on the mountain-top it is easy to realize that whatever special nests we make ~ leaves and moss like the marmots and birds, or tents or piled stone ~ we all dwell in a house of one room ~ the world with the firmament for its roof ~ and are sailing the celestial spaces without leaving any track. ~John Muir

Saturday, October 28

- 11:00am **Become a Bat!** – Learn about a few bats that live in Indiana, play a game to see if you could survive as a bat, and create a unique “bat hat” to wear! Nature Center, Back Patio (45 min).
- 11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:00pm **Tool-Making Demonstration** – Watch as the Village Blacksmith crafts one of many tools that pioneer blacksmiths also created for use by other village craftsmen. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith Shop (30 min).
- 2:00pm **Spinning Spiders** – Get an introduction to some common Indiana spiders and make a mobile of these dangling arachnids to hang in your house. Nature Center, Back Patio (45 min).
- 2:30pm **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 3:00pm **Baking Spiders** – This isn’t the eight-legged arachnid, but a unique piece of cooking equipment used by pioneers. Find out what it looks like and what it was used for during this demonstration by our Village Housekeeper. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence (30 min).

Sunday, October 29

- 11:00am  **Cave Crawl** - Join us for a guided hike into Donaldson Cave. We’ll talk about how the cave was formed, explore a side passage, and look for cave critters and formations. *Bring a flashlight and wear good shoes.* Meet in the Donaldson Picnic Area parking lot (1 hr).
- 11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:00pm **Spring Pole Lathe Demonstration** – See how pioneer craftsmen turned table legs, rungs, and other round items using a hickory pole to help power the machine. Pioneer Village, Woodshop (30 min).
- 2:30pm **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

Monday, October 30 and Tuesday, October 31

I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show. ~Andrew Wyeth

Mark Your Calendar!

- November 4: Autumn Crafts Day
- November 11: Autumn Crafts Day & Craft Show
- November 18: Thanksgiving Crafts Day
- November 19: Thanksgiving in the Village
- November 24-25: Holiday Craft Days
- December 1-2: Holiday in the Village
- December 16: Wright Brother’s Day